

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, what a great day for America—a victory for the American people.

You know, last November the American people loudly demanded the repeal of ObamaCare, and today the House delivered.

Earlier today, I outlined why the American people were so opposed to this legislation. So tonight I thought I would remind my colleagues on the left as to why they rejected ObamaCare.

It was the employee mandate and the mandates on individuals that tax, penalize, and punish Americans who choose not to opt in to a government-approved health care system.

Maybe it was the \$569 billion in new taxes or the \$2.6 trillion cost or the \$700 billion in deficit spending over the first 10 years this law is fully implemented, and who knows what after that.

More importantly, it violated our Constitution and our personal liberties.

So earlier today I asked my friends and folks back in the district who follow us on Facebook, the Georgians I work for and I represent, to respond to us as to how the legislation has already impacted them today. So we got a few of those responses; and, Mr. Speaker, I thought I would share some of those.

From north Georgia, Elisabeth in Rossville said her health insurance premiums have already almost doubled.

Jimmy in north Georgia said his health care premium is certainly more expensive.

Brian said his health insurance just went up by at least 8 percent, and the cost of his mother's Medicare part D coverage has doubled.

BJ in Calhoun, a health insurance agent, said premiums have risen, and companies he represents are reducing or eliminating commissions.

Then there is Jeremy in Ringgold. He was going to expand his business this year, but he was forced to put those plans on hold because of the costly and burdensome 1099 tax filing requirements that were required under ObamaCare.

It is because of these Americans that we not only repealed ObamaCare today but that tomorrow we will also vote on a House resolution directing the committees of jurisdiction to begin working on legislation through a transparent process—open to the American people—that will embody free market principles that, under many circumstances, will foster economic growth and private sector job creation; lower health care premiums through increased competition and choice; ensure patients have the opportunity to keep their health care plans if they like them; reform the medical liability system to reduce unnecessary and wasteful health care spending; remove barriers that prohibit health care plans from being purchased across State lines; provide the States greater flexibility to administer the Medicaid programs.

More importantly, it will be policy that empowers Americans with options

instead of mandates coming from the Federal Government. Above all, our reforms will not infringe upon individual liberties.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank those tonight who on Facebook responded to us in helping us start that round two of the ObamaCare debate.

Today, we voted to repeal. Tomorrow, we begin the work to replace with free market solutions.

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DISTORTING THE DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, we recognized the 82nd birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., perhaps the greatest moral and spiritual leader in our Nation's history. Each of us in our way reflected on Dr. King's teaching, and his message had more relevance than ever in light of the tragic shootings in Tucson.

It's a sign of progress that a man whose ideas were considered revolutionary during his life has achieved mainstream iconic status in death. But as we all share his legacy, there is a very real danger that some people will, in a self-serving way, distort King's vision to justify the very policies he gave his life opposing. In fact, Department of Defense General Counsel Jeh Johnson has a bizarre, unsettling interpretation of Dr. King's dream.

In a speech last week, Mr. Johnson suggested that this great agitator for peace would have endorsed the war in Afghanistan. And I quote him, he said, "If Dr. King were alive today, he would recognize that our Nation's military should not and cannot lay down its arms and leave the American people vulnerable to terrorist attack."

Mr. Speaker, this strikes me as a presumptuous and manipulative distortion of everything Dr. King represented. He was fierce; he was resolute in his opposition to the Vietnam War. It was a courageous, controversial stand that cost him friends and allies.

He believed nothing as strongly as the idea that nonviolence was the only route to social change. He left little ambiguity about his feelings on war: "The chain reaction of evil wars producing more wars must be broken," Dr. King once said, "or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation." I don't know how you get much clearer than that, Mr. Speaker.

Violence, he preached, "is a descending spiral, begetting the very things it seeks to destroy. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder the hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence."

Mr. Speaker, we've seen exactly this in our misguided struggle to defeat terrorism through warfare. Killing one Taliban or al Qaeda insurgent

emboldens the movement and simply creates more terrorists. Dr. King added that "a nation that continues to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching a spiritual death." These are the words we ought to reflect on as we continue a debate about Federal budget priorities.

Far from supporting the war in Afghanistan, I believe Dr. King would be much more likely to embrace the principles of the SMART security platform that I've spoken of from this podium many, many times. It calls for cooperation, not conquest; dialogue, not destruction; engagement, not invasion. It pursues the goal of global peace and security by focusing on our common humanity. It is an agenda that respects human rights, that seeks to empower and lift up the poor people of the world instead of dropping bombs on their villages and on their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Johnson of the Pentagon couldn't be more wrong about the lessons of Martin Luther King's life. I have every confidence that, were he alive today, Dr. King would join me in a loud and unmistakable call to bring our troops home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, last month, The Economist exhorted Western leaders to more openly and consistently criticize Russia for its sham democracy, its brutal treatment of human rights activists and political dissidents, and its utter disregard for the rule of law. It was a challenge that should be taken seriously.

Our approach to Russia has been characterized paradoxically by a failure to be both sufficiently pragmatic and sufficiently idealistic at the same time. Russia is a key international player with whom we must engage. That's undeniable. It is a permanent member of the Security Council. It is a key actor in any international effort to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions. It exerts great influence in regions such as central Asia, with implications for our struggle against violent extremists in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Keeping our engagement with Russia as constructive and effective as possible is essential to pursuing our vital national security interests. But, Mr. Speaker, this reality cannot preclude our commitment to promote democracy around the globe and condemn those who brutally suppress it. We